

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated December 12, 2004. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's efforts in conducting a timely and comprehensive examination of the application. Responsive to the Office Action, Applicant has amended the application to a scope that is commensurate with the issues raised by the Examiner.

The specification was objected to for an inconsistency with the claims. Claims 1 – 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite, and the Examiner requested that the floor portion of the inlet port be expressly referenced with a reference number. Claims 1, and 3 – 5 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1, 5-6 and 8 of U.S. Patent No. 6,675,804.

Claims 1 and 4 were amended. Claims 1 – 8 remain pending. Replacement drawing sheets, specifically referencing the floor portion of the inlet port, have been provided. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended to conform to the description in the specification. The specification has been amended to include a reference number for the inlet port floor. Replacement drawing sheets, including the inlet port floor (43) are filed herewith. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended to claim the elongate shaft in conformance with the specification. Finally, a Terminal Disclaimer is being filed herewith to obviate the double patenting rejection over Applicant's prior patent.

This Amendment is considered timely and fully responsive to the issues raised by the Examiner.

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Should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or concerns, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone conference in order to expedite this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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